

Historical Connections



NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



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Honoring Nebraska's Heritage While Supporting a Meaningful Cause at the Cattlemen's Ball



Teresa Breazile and volunteer Charlotte Parrish pose with the Foundation's table, themed "Your Brand. Your Legacy. Nebraska's History."



We are incredibly grateful for volunteer Charlotte Parrish, whose support was invaluable throughout the event. Here she is restocking NSHSF water bottles labeled "Hydrate, Explore, Make History!"

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation was proud to join the History Tent at the 28th annual Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, held June 5–6 in Cozad. Over nearly three decades, the Ball has raised more than \$22 million for cancer research benefiting the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, an extraordinary testament to the power of community and shared purpose.

This year's event drew thousands of attendees, and the History Tent quickly became a hub of conversation and connection. The Foundation, alongside the Robert Henri Museum, Gothenburg Historical Society, Dawson County Historical Society, and the

Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles, welcomed a steady stream of visitors to the history tent throughout the weekend.

Teresa Breazile, the Foundation's Development and Community Engagement Coordinator, and volunteer Charlotte Parrish of Security National Bank greeted hundreds at the Foundation's table, where conversations focused on preserving Nebraska's history, strengthening local communities, and the many ways individuals can get involved and support the Foundation's programs.

Visitors brought a wide range of interests and experiences. Educators expressed interest in our educational programs, local historians inquired about RoamNebraska grant opportunities, and many shared personal connections to places like Chimney Rock while expressing appreciation for the Foundation's Walk to the Rock trail system. It was especially encouraging to meet attendees already familiar with WanderNebraska and to introduce others to upcoming WanderNebraska Adventure Tours, including this summer's Golf and History tour. Across these conversations, one theme remained clear: Nebraskans value their history and are eager to play a role in preserving it.

Grounded in the theme "Your Brand. Your Legacy. Nebraska's History," the Foundation's presence honored the deep ties between ranching heritage and the state's broader story. The enthusiasm and appreciation from attendees, volunteers, and event leaders alike underscored the importance of this work. We are especially grateful to everyone who stopped by to share their stories, ask questions, and support our mission. Hearing firsthand how communities are carrying history forward made for a meaningful and memorable weekend.



Nebraska State Senate candidate Dan Osborne stopped by the Foundation's booth to introduce himself and learn more about the Foundation and our efforts to preserve Nebraska's history. Pictured left to right: Teresa Breazile and Dan Osborne.



Miss Rodeo Nebraska, Brylee Thompson from Hershey, Nebraska visited the Foundation table and shared highlights from her year of service while expressing appreciation for the Foundation's work. Pictured left to right: Teresa Breazile and Brylee Thompson



Saturday afternoon featured livestock demonstrations, including the Rope and Drag Branding event, where seasoned cowhands showcased their skills alongside the next generation just beginning to learn the ropes.

The grounds of the Cattlemen's Ball stretched across the Nebraska prairie beneath a wide, brilliant blue sky.



Thanking Our WanderNebraska Partner: Anna Bemis Palmer Museum in York



Left to right: Teresa Breazile and Carrie Remmers at the Anna Bemis Palmer Museum in York. During the visit, Carrie shared highlights of the museum's exhibits, offering insight into the stories and history that bring York County's heritage to life

On June 5, 2026, Teresa Breazile, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator, made a surprise visit to the [Anna Bemis Palmer Museum](#) in York, where she was warmly welcomed by Museum Coordinator Carrie Remmers as part of the Foundation's ongoing outreach to thank participating sites in the 2026 WanderNebraska program.

With more than 254 sites registered this year, the program's success is made possible by dedicated partners like the Anna Bemis Palmer Museum, which preserves and shares the history of York County through engaging, story-driven experiences that connect past and present. These visits are a small token of appreciation for the vital role our sites play in bringing Nebraska's rich heritage to life. We encourage WanderNebraska travelers to stop by the museum on their next visit to York and explore the exhibits and events.



500 Mile Sculpture Garden: Special Screening at The Ross, June 30



Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Nebraska's I-80 Bicentennial Sculpture Project with a special screening of 500 Mile Sculpture Garden, a 1976 documentary produced by Nebraska Public Media that chronicles the creation of the landmark public art project. The program will also feature two short films exploring the sculptures' history and legacy.

The screening will take place on June 30, 2026, from 3–4:30 p.m. at the Ross Media Arts Center in Lincoln. It will serve as the kickoff to a series of events recognizing the project during the national America 250 celebration.

The event is made possible through the support of the Committee for the Preservation of the I-80 Bicentennial Sculptures, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, and the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center.

The screening is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Reserve your tickets using the link below or by calling 402-472-9100.

[RSVP TO THE SPECIAL SCREENING EVENT](#)



Don't Miss the Alkali Station WanderNebraska & Trail Trek Tour this Weekend



The next WanderNebraska & Trail Trek tour will be held at Alkali Station, a site rich in Nebraska history. A special presentation and guided tour will be conducted by retired State Archaeologist Rob Bozell. Tamara Cooper, Site Superintendent at Ash Hollow State Historical Park, will also be presenting on the collection of artifacts amassed from Alkali Station by Pete Peters.

Participants are encouraged to wear boots and bring 4-wheel-drive vehicles or trucks if possible. The tour will include the military fort site, the wagon wheel ruts, and several other interesting locations on the property. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 13. Look for the signs when you exit at Roscoe. Take **Exit 133** (approximately 5 miles east of Ogallala). Please RSVP Leslie Fattig at **LFattig@nshsf.org**



Learn More about Snakes of the West at Walk to the Rock



Join Nebraska Game & Parks at Chimney Rock for a Snakes of the West Hiking Tour on June 27 at 11 a.m. Mountain Time.

Take a guided hike with Game & Parks Outdoor Education Specialist Amanda Filipi into the world of western snakes and discover how these often-misunderstood reptiles play an important role in healthy ecosystems. Along the way, guests will explore how to identify common species, what they reveal about habitat health, and how to safely share the landscape with them.

This event will take place at the Walk to the Rock patio and parking lot across from the Chimney Rock Cemetery on County Road 98. Please come prepared for hiking conditions; bring plenty of water, wear sunscreen, and make sure to wear close-toed shoes suitable for a mostly flat, crushed-gravel 1.1-mile trail.

[SEE FULL EVENT DETAILS](#)



Congratulations to our RoamNebraska Spring 2026 Grant Recipients



Through RoamNebraska, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation supports local organizations working to preserve and share Nebraska's history. We are proud to recognize this year's grant recipients and the important projects they are bringing to life in communities across the state.

- American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
- Arnold Area Historical Society
- Buffalo County Historical Society and Trails and Rails Museum
- Dixon County Historical Society
- Florence Historical Foundation
- Friends of the Axtell Public Library
- Friends of the Historic Midwest Theater
- Front Street Cowboy Museum, Inc
- Gage County Historical Society and Museum
- Genoa Historical Museum
- Gering Public Library Foundation
- Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project
- Hastings Memorial Library
- Hastings Public Library
- Hitchcock County Historical Society
- Holt County Historical Society
- Legacy of the Plains (Japanese Hall)
- Lux Center for the Arts
- Madison County Historical Society
- Maltman Memorial Library
- National Willa Cather Center
- Nebraska Game and Parks with Ash Hollow State Historical Park
- North Platte Public Library
- Operation Christmas Card: North Platte PowWow
- Pierce County 4-H Council (NE 4-H Foundation)
- Polk County Historical Society
- Roots of Justice
- Saint Edward Library Foundation
- Saline County Historical Society
- Saunders County Historical Society and Museum
- Seward Library Foundation
- Sherman County Historical Society
- Silver Creek Historical Committee
- Steinauer Community Heritage House
- Strategic Air Command and Space Museum
- Stuhr Museum Foundation
- The House of Afros, Capes and Curls
- York County Historical Association



Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

JULY 11 - LEWIS AND CLARK VISITOR CENTER - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:

Join the museum's Executive Director, Doug Friedli, at 9:00 a.m. for a one mile guided hike along the Tree Trail and walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. The trail has a chipped wood surface and is stroller friendly. Living history reenactors will be on site at 10 a.m. and Joe Starita, author of *I Am a Man*, will give a special presentation at 11 a.m.

AUGUST 8 - BUFFALO BILL RANCH - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Join Nebraska historian and author Jeff Barnes for an insightful tour of Buffalo Bill Cody's home property. A Buffalo Bill impersonator will be on hand and Barnes will sign purchased copies of his book. The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be approximately half a mile on level ground. This event is free and open to the public, but a valid state park vehicle permit is required for park entry.

SEPTEMBER 12 - ENGINEER CANTONMENT - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:

Nebraska State Archaeologist, Rob Bozell, will share the history of the Engineer Cantonment site as well as archaeological insights. Participants will walk to the site from the county road. This program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. Length of walk is approximately one-quarter mile. Engineer Cantonment is located .2 miles south of the intersection of County Road P51 and Bluebird Lane, Omaha. There is limited parking at the site and all others will need to safely park along side the road. Watch for yard signs with more information.



Upcoming Cottonwood Society Events

JULY 31 - SPECIAL TOUR OF JAPANESE HALL AT LEGACY OF THE PLAINS: On July 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Cottonwood Society members—and their friends—are invited to a special tour of the Japanese Hall located on the Legacy of the Plains grounds in Gering. The tour will be led by Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, who will share the inspiring story behind the creation of the Japanese Hall, its development, and the history and contributions of Japanese Americans in the North Platte River Valley. We encourage Cottonwood Society members to bring a friend and introduce them to this remarkable Nebraska story. More details will be coming soon, but for now, please save the date for what promises to be an engaging and memorable evening. RSVP or more information - LFattig@nshsf.org

JULY 31 - SPECIAL MORNING TOUR OF FORT ATKINSON AND FORT CALHOUN: Also on July 31, Cottonwood Society members and their friends are invited to a special morning tour of Fort Atkinson and Fort Calhoun led by State Archaeologist Nolan Johnson. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will provide participants with a unique opportunity to explore these important historic sites while learning about their archaeological significance and role in

Nebraska's early history. We encourage Cottonwood Society members to bring a friend and introduce them to this remarkable Nebraska story. More details will be coming soon, but for now, please save the date for what promises to be an engaging and memorable evening. RSVP or more information - LFattig@nshsf.org



Get Your Tickets for WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip

We are excited to announce the date for our 2026 **WANDERNEBRASKA: THE GREAT ROADTRIP!** Mark your calendars for August 21st so you don't miss the fun.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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For more information on sponsorship, [click here](#).

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